

## VIII.—Obituary.

## MR. WILLIAM BERNHARD TEGETMEIER.

At the great age of 96 Mr. Tegetmeier died on November 20th last at Golder's Green, near Hampstead. Mr. Tegetmeier was the son of G. C. Tegetmeier, a Hanoverian, who had taken service in the Royal Navy. He was born at Colnbrook, in Buckinghamshire, on November 4th, 1816, and was educated in London for the medical profession, chiefly at University College, where he was a fellow-student with the future Sir William Jenner, Dr. W. B. Carpenter, and Dr. Lankester, all distinguished men of science and all of whom pre-deceased him. At this time his father was practising in St. James' and residing at a house in Bury Street, which belonged to Yarrell, and it was due to his influence that the lad acquired a taste for natural history. Although he never qualified in medicine, his knowledge of anatomy and physiology served him well as a practical breeder and writer on Poultry, Pigeons, and general natural history. Yarrell introduced him to Charles Darwin in 1855, and he was able to be of considerable service to the latter, supplying him with a good deal of material and helping and advising him in his experiments on breeding; the correspondence lasted till 1881. Mr. Francis Darwin, in his 'Life and Letters of Charles Darwin,' writes:—

"My father's letters to Mr. Tegetmeier consist almost entirely of series of questions relating to the various breeds of Fowls, Pigeons, &c. &c., and in reading through the pile of letters it is made clear that Mr. Tegetmeier's knowledge and judgment were completely trusted and highly valued by him."

As everyone knows, Tegetmeier's special subject was the cultivation and breeding of Pigeons, Poultry, and Pheasants, and on this he wrote many practical works, and was probably for many years our leading authority. His reputation as a breeder and fancier caused him to be chosen as a judge at the principal shows, and secured his appointment as poultry-editor of 'The Field,' a position which he

held for nearly forty years, only retiring in 1907. During this period he also contributed largely to the natural history columns of the paper, and for many years supplied the leading articles for 'The Queen.'

His membership of the British Ornithologists' Union dates from 1873, and since 1909 he has occupied, with Mr. A. R. Wallace and Col. Godwin-Austen, a place on the list of the Extraordinary Members. Of the Zoological Society he became a Fellow so long ago as 1866, and was promoted to the position of Honorary Fellow in 1905. He was a frequent attendant at the meetings of the B. O. C., and made many interesting exhibits there during the years 1894 to 1900; but latterly he has not been seen so often among us, owing to failing sight and other disqualifications due to increasing old age.

Tegetmeier's tastes were not confined to natural history. He was a collector of rare prints and a discriminating book-buyer. He possessed a very complete collection of the original editions of Shelley, of whose poems he was an enthusiastic admirer. He was also an original member of the Savage Club.

The following is a list of his principal publications on our subject, including one paper which he communicated to 'The Ibis' in 1890 on the domestic races of Fowls:—

- (1) The Poultry-Book: containing the Breeding and Management of Profitable and Ornamental Poultry, their Qualities and Characteristics. With illustrations by H. WEIR, &c. &c. By W. B. TEGETMEIER. Pp. viii & 356; 30 col. pls. London, 1867. 8vo. 2nd edition: London, 1873. 8vo.
- (2) Pigeons: their Structure, Varieties, Habits, and Management. With representations of the different varieties by H. WEIR. Pp. 188; 16 col. pls. London, 1868. 4to.
- (3) The Homing or Carrier Pigeon (Le Pigeon voyageur); its History, General Management, and Method of Training. Pp. 124; 1 pl. London [1871]. 8vo.
- (4) Pheasants: their Natural History and Practical Management. Illustrated by T. W. WOOD. 1st edition. London, 1873. 4to. 2nd edition, pp. iv+142; 13 pls. London, 1881. 4to.
- (5) Reprint of Boddaert's 'Table des Planches enluminées d'histoire naturelle.' Edited by W. B. TEGETMEIER, F.Z.S. London, 1874. 8vo.

- (6) Moore's Columbarium. Reprinted from the original edition of 1735, with a brief notice of the Author, by W. B. TEGETMEIER, London, 1879.
- (7) The Natural History of the Cranes. A Monograph by the late EDWARD BLYTH, C.M.Z.S. Greatly enlarged, and reprinted, with numerous illustrations, by W. B. TEGETMEIER, F.Z.S. London, 1881. 4to.
- (8) The new Game Bird, Pallas's Sand-Grouse: its Natural History, with a Plea for its Preservation. By W. B. TEGETMEIER, F.Z.S. Pp. 23. London, 1888. 8vo.
- (9) "On the Principal Modern Breeds of the Domestic Fowl." *Ibis*, 1890, pp. 304-327; 20 text-figs.

### IX.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

#### *Balducci on the Sardinian Crow.*

[Intorno alla pretesa nuova forma del *Corvus sardus* di Kleinschmidt. Riv. Ital. Ornit. i. 1912, pp. 225-236, tav. i. & ii.]

Signor Balducci has studied the Sardinian Crow which has been separated from that of the mainland, and, after an examination of a large series of both forms, has come to the conclusion that there is no ground for their separation.

#### *Beebe on new Blood-Pheasants.*

[New Blood-Pheasants. By C. William Beebe. Zoologica, New York, vol. i. 1912, pp. 189-193.]

When travelling through Yunan, during his recent journey in the East, Mr. Beebe met a Chinaman who had attached to his pack-horse the remains of a Blood-Pheasant. On his return to Europe he found two mounted birds of the same kind in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris, which shewed him that the Yunan bird was undoubtedly a very distinct form. He proposes to call it *Ithaginis kuseri*, after Col. Kuser, for whom he has been conducting his Pheasant researches. The type in Paris was obtained by Prince Henri d'Orléans in 1896. Mr. Beebe also separates the Blood-Pheasant of southern and British Sikkim from that of Nepal and northern Sikkim under the title of *Ithaginis cruentus affinis*.